

LESSON 36: Fact or Fiction?

• Theme: *People and Culture*

DSKP Grammar

Student's Book: Unit 2, p. 25

GRAMMAR HELP

was/were, could/couldn't



Explanation	Example
was is for singular subjects	She was in Japan last month. She wasn't in Taiwan.
were is for plural subjects	They were hungry. They weren't thirsty.
We use could to talk about ability and possibility in the past.	I could read when I was five. I couldn't cook when I was nine.

Question	Short answer (Affirmative)	Short answer (Negative)
Was the shop open?	Yes, it was .	No, it wasn't .
Were the novels interesting?	Yes, they were .	No, they weren't .
Could he recite the poem?	Yes, he could .	No, he couldn't .

A. Underline the correct answers.

- 1 He wasn't/weren't in a hurry to go home.
- 2 My mother was/were really tired last night.
- 3 They wasn't/weren't afraid to go into the dark cave.
- 4 I was/were at my favourite author's book-signing event yesterday.
- 5 J.K. Rowling was/were an English teacher before she became a famous author.

B. Fill in the blanks with 'could' or 'couldn't'.

- 1 _____ you understand what the man was saying?
- 2 Cole _____ swim like a fish a few years ago, but now he can't.
- 3 They _____ find the cat because it was hiding under the white car.
- 4 I _____ speak French when I was in school. Now I speak it like a native.
- 5 Last Monday, I was late to school because my father _____ find his car keys.

C. Write answers to the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 Was the museum closed? (short answer – negative)
No, it wasn't.

- 2 Were the movies exciting? (short answer – positive)

- 3 Could the girls write their essays? (short answer – positive)

- 4 Could he go to the library? (short answer – negative)
